

USDA, SCS
Section II-E
Technical Guide
Area 23

STEEL ROCKY

ROCKY HILLS

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

P.E. 19-25

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. **TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION:** Steep, rough slopes and hills usually ranging above 20 percent. The roughness in many instances limits grazing.

2. **SOILS:**

a. This site consists of limestone bedrock exposures and stony soils. The bedrock exposures make up 50 to 85 percent of the site. The other 15 to 50 percent consists of calcareous stony clay loams and loams existing in pockets and crevices between the bedrock exposures. Very high rates of runoff are common on this site. Soils erode very readily where it is unprotected by vegetation. Where soil material exists on this site in deep pockets or crevices, vegetation grows well. Light rains are effective. This site occurs where annual average air temperatures are above 70°. Some species grow here which are limited by cold further north.

b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Limestone rockland

c. Specific Site Location:

3. **CLIMAX VEGETATION:**

a. The climax vegetation is characterized by mid grasses and various woody shrubs, dominant woody vegetation is guajillo and black-brush with a few scattered ashe and redberry junipers and shin and liveoak trees occurring at the base of steeper hills and in draws. Sideoats grama is the most abundant grass on the site in excellent condition, with several other mid grasses present.

1/1/72

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	85%	Woody	10%	Forbs	5%
Sideoats grama	30	Guajillo	5	Orange zexmenia	5
Feathery bluestem	15	Blackbrush	5	Bush sunflower	
Green sprangletop	5	Texas kidneywood		Velvet bundle-	
Slim tridens	10	Brush myrtlecroton		flower	
Tanglehead	5	Liveoak		Sensitivebriar	
Fall witchgrass	5	Shinoak		Annual forbs	
Rio Grande love-	T	Juniper sp.			
grass		Evergreen sumac			
Plains lovegrass	5	Blue sage			
Texas cupgrass	T	Mescalbean			
Perennial threeawn	5	Texas persimmon			
Bush muhley	5	Cacti sp.			
Red grama	T	Lechuguilla			
Hairy grama	T	Ceniza			
Hall panicum	T	Ocotillo			
Bristlegrass sp.	T	Shrubby dalea			
		Gregg ash			

- b. As retrogression occurs, woody species increase and dominate the site. Guajillo becomes the dominant plant. Red grama, Hall panicum and hairy tridens along with perennial threeawns become the dominant grass plants on the site when deteriorated.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 600 pounds per acre in poor years to 1200 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer and javelina as well as several species of non-game birds and small mammals.
5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percent		
	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/YL	AU/Sec.
Excellent	76-100	24-29	27-22
Good	51-75	28-33	23-19
Fair	26-50	31-40	21-16
Poor	0-25	38/	17 or less

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Slim tridens	Blackbrush
Feathery bluestem	Perennial threeawn	Juniper sp.
Green sprangletop	Bush muhley	Evergreen sumac
Tanglehead	Guajillo	Blue sage
Fall witchgrass	Dalea sp.	Mescalbean
Plains lovegrass	Orange zexmenia	Texas persimmon
Bristlegrass sp.	Sensitivebriar	Ceniza
Rio Grande lovegrass	Velvet bundle- flower	Ocotillo
Texas cupgrass	Bush sunflower	Red grama
Gregg ash		Hairy grama
Texas kidneywood		Hall panicum
Brush myrtlecroton		
Bush sunflower		

b. For Sheep

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Sideoats grama	Tanglehead	Red grama
Feathery bluestem	Perennial threeawn	Hairy grama
Green sprangletop	Slim tridens	Lechuguilla
Fall witchgrass	Guajillo	Texas persimmon
Plains lovegrass	Ceniza	Ocotillo
Texas cupgrass	Oak sp.	Blackbrush
Bush muhley	Rio Grande lovegrass	
Bristlegrass	Orange zexmenia	
Brush myrtlecroton		
Bundleflower		
Texas kidneywood		
Sensitivebriar		
Dalea sp.		
Gregg ash		
Bush sunflower		
Most annual forbs		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

c. For Goats

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Texas kidneywood	Most grasses	Red grama
Gregg ash	Orange zexmenia	Hairy grama
Dalea sp.	Blackbrush	Shrubby blue sage
Bush sunflower	Ceniza	Cacti sp.
Bundleflower	Oak sp.	Lechuguilla
Sensitivebriar		
Bristlegrass sp.		
Guajillo		
Brush myrtlecroton		
Most annual forbs		
Green sprangletop		

d. For Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Texas kidneywood	Blackbrush	Most grasses
Gregg ash	Ceniza	Cacti
Bush myrtlecroton	Oak	Lechuguilla
Annual forbs	Guajillo	
	Orange zexmenia	
	Persimmon	

e. For Javelina

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Liveoak acorns	Juniper berries	Grasses
Shinoak acorns	Lechuguilla	
Texas persimmon fruit		
Prickly pear		